



# World Christian Fellowship

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## Heaven

### 08-Our Fellowship with God

We will be with God!

Since God is the Supreme Occupant of heaven, being with Him is the supreme joy of heaven.

We will have fellowship with the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

***1 John 1:3, that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.***

When we become believers, we enter into communion with God. God's life becomes ours.

We become so identified with Him.

His will becomes our will and His purpose our purpose.

Even though sin hinders our walk with Christ on earth, the deepest part of our regenerated souls is united with the living God and in fellowship with the living Christ.

Salvation brought us into communion--we can talk and commune with God.

We pray to Him.

We hear Him speak in the Word.

He moves silently, providentially in our lives to reveal Himself.

We enjoy real spiritual communion with God. But that communion is incomplete. Only when we are in heaven will we enter into full, unhindered fellowship with God.

**John 17:**

Our Lord's High-priestly prayer, He asks the Father to return Him to the glory He had before the world began.

Anticipating the completion of His work on earth, He was eager to re-join the Father.

**John 17:24**, *"Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world."*

We often think about how much we long to be with Christ but must also remember that He longs to be with us.

The above verse gives us the reason for Christ's longing!

*" that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world."*

Christ wants us to see His glory--to see Him for who He really is. Yet we won't merely see Him!

We will be with Him, which implies we will be participants, not mere spectators.

#### **John 14:**

**John 13:36-38**, *Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, where are You going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you shall follow Me afterward."*

**37** *Peter said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my life for Your sake."*

**38** *Jesus answered him, "Will you lay down your life for My sake? Most assuredly, I say to you, the rooster shall not crow till you have denied Me three times.*

Later Jesus told them not to be troubled.

He gave that exhortation because the disciples were troubled at the thought of His leaving them.

He was their resource for everything.

When they needed comfort, He comforted them.

When they needed wisdom, He taught them.

When they needed food, He provided it.

In the three years they had been together, He had become their very lives.

**John 14:1-3**, *“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup>In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*

We will be with the Father and with Christ in the Father's house. Everyone in heaven lives in the Father's house. There are not many houses--there is one house, the dwelling place of God.

### **V 3**

We are going more to a person than to a place.

We will enter fellowship with God and His Son, and we will never leave His presence.

Being with God is the essence of heaven. Heaven will be paradise regained but infinitely exalted beyond what Adam and Eve experienced in the Garden.

We will enjoy unending fellowship with God. Since God is infinitely perfect, we will never grow bored of being with Him. Forever we will experience the unfolding glories of His infinite Person.

## **Revelation 21:**

**Revelation 21:1-3,** *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.* <sup>2</sup> *Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.* <sup>3</sup> *And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.*

The expressions "among men" and "among them" speak of God's intimate presence.

God Himself will pitch His tent among men and dwell among them. The glory of heaven is that believers will forever enjoy the pleasure of God's company.

## **Our Vision of God**

In heaven we will see the Lord.

However, you may think of several scriptural statements that seem to contradict that.

After all, God said that No man can see Me and live!

**Exodus 33:20,** *But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live."*

**John 1:18**, *No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.*

**1 John 4:12**, *No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.*

**1 Timothy 6:16**, *who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honour and everlasting power. Amen.*

In Exodus 33 Moses asked God to show him His glory.

**Exodus 33: 18**, *And he said, "Please, show me Your glory."*

However, God explained that He couldn't show Moses His full glory, but consented to show him His back.

It's true. God is inaccessible to mortal man. Indeed, He is "of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity"

**Habakkuk 1:13**, *You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness. Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, And hold Your tongue when the wicked devours A person more righteous than he?*

As long as we are tainted by sin, we can't see God.

We will be free from sin in heaven, yet even in heaven we won't see God in His infinity because we will always be finite and therefore incapable of comprehending the infinite.

Nevertheless, we will see God in a way we can't see Him now. Now we see only a glimpse, like the disciples who saw Jesus pull back His veil of flesh on the Mount of transfiguration.

**(Matthew 17:1-9).**

They saw a little glow, but not the full blaze of God's glorious presence. Only a glorified, sinless person could endure that. Since our souls and bodies will be perfect in heaven, we will have a greater capacity to see God's revelation of Himself.

**Matthew 5:8,** "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

The Greek verb translated "see" (hora[ma]o) speaks of a future continuous reality in an environment where we are continually seeing God.

Kings of the ancient Orient secluded themselves from their people. It was a rare privilege to have an audience with a king. However, believers will forever see the King of Kings!

**Psalms 42:1-2,** *As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. <sup>2</sup>My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?*

He wanted to see God.

Philip, speaking for all the disciples, said to Christ, "Show us the Father".

**John 14:8**, *Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."*

The redeemed have always longed to see God.

In this life we see God not with the physical eye, but with the heart and mind.

We see Him moving in history and in our individual circumstances.

We see Him reflected in His creation, providence, and revelation.

We see His grace, mercy, and love revealed in the work of His Spirit.

But I believe that in heaven we will see God Himself with our physical eyes.

In Exodus 33 God told Moses that he would be permitted to see His back.

Contrast that with

**Revelation 22:3-5**, *And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants*

*shall serve Him. <sup>4</sup>They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.*

God will turn on the light of His glory, and through perfect eyes we will see the very face of God.

God is spirit (**John 4:24**) and spirit is invisible, so whenever God manifests Himself it is in the form of light.

### **Spiritual comprehension of Him**

In heaven believers will also see God with the eye of the mind. We will comprehend God.

**1 Corinthians 13:12,** *For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.*

We will have an instantaneous awareness and knowledge of the fullness of God--as much as human beings have capacity for.

So when Christ says in **Matthew 5:8**, "*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God,*"

He is referring not only to seeing God with glorified eyes, but with glorified minds as well.

We will also see Christ.

**1 John 3:1-2, Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.**

The day is coming when we will see Christ and be like Him. Seeing Christ and the Father will overwhelm and eternally awe us. But understanding that glory will enrapture our minds with delight forever.

## Conclusion

**Psalms 17:15, As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.**

What really satisfies you?

New clothes?

A new job?

A promotion?

A new house or car?

A great meal?

A fun time?

A vacation?

David said his ultimate satisfaction would be seeing the face of God and being like Him.

As Christians, our ultimate satisfaction should be to know and see our God and His Son, Jesus Christ. Heaven will provide us with that privilege--an undiminished, unwearied sight of His infinite glory and beauty, bringing us infinite and eternal delight.

We can understand why Peter wanted to stay on the Mount of Transfiguration!

**1. Looking toward heaven is evidence of genuine salvation.**

A preoccupation with heaven is a good indication that you are saved.

Is heaven where your heart is?

Do you long to be in the heavenlies?

Do you long to commune with God?

Do you invest as much of your treasures there as possible?

**Are your affections set on things above, not on earthly things?**

A heart set on heaven is a heart set on God.

A heart set on God is a heart God has changed. The truest evidence of saving grace may well be a heavenly attitude.

## **2. Looking toward heaven produces Christian character.**

Nothing compels us to be what God wants us to be more strongly than the truths about heaven. If you understand your inheritance and the rewards, glories, joys, and privileges of heaven, and you understand that Christ Himself will serve you forever out of gratitude for what you have done, that will compel you to excellence of character.

Communing with the Lord of heaven through prayer, meditation, and devotion purges the heart and produces obedience.

## **3. Looking toward heaven is the truest path to joy.**

If you want to be miserable, focus on this world. If you want to be joyful, focus on heaven. David said that the light of God's face gladdens the heart.

**Psalms 21:6, *For You have made him most blessed forever; You have made him exceedingly glad with Your presence.***

Paul said that the eternal weight of glory is far beyond anything we suffer now.

**2 Corinthians 4:17, *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,***

**4. Looking toward heaven protects us from temptation and sin.**

One of Satan's main temptations is to get us to focus on earthly matters. But a believer whose mind is on heaven, who longs for full righteousness and the presence of God, is not easy prey for Satan.

**5. Looking toward heaven maintains the vigour of our spiritual service.**

If you run slowly in the Christian race, contributing little in terms of Christian service and financial giving, you obviously have little regard for the promised prize.

If you properly valued the heavenly prize, it would compel you to give of yourself and your resources. Fervency springs from a vision of heaven's reward.

**6. Looking toward heaven honours God before all.**

When your heart is set on heaven, you demonstrate your love for God. Your faithful service gives the people who see you a high view of God--they see God not only as all demanding, but as all worthy. Dwell on the heavenlies and you will honour God. Dwell on the earthly things and you will dishonour God by implying they are more valuable than He is.

## **7. Looking toward heaven repays God.**

God always sets His heart on us. Therefore, it's only fair that we set our hearts on Him! There's certainly nothing in this world worthy of such attention.

**Psalms 17:15,** *As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.*

Will anything less than that satisfy you?